

Multnomah County Commissioner  
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For more details about my work or to sign up for my monthly newsletter, visit my website:  
[multco.us/commissioner-vega-pederson](http://multco.us/commissioner-vega-pederson)

There you can find my contact information, more information about my work, links to my social media, additional county resources and more.



Multnomah County Commissioner

## Jessica Vega Pederson



Friends and Neighbors,

For the last two and a half years I have had the honor of representing you on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. Since taking office, I've worked hard to tackle the challenges facing our community, while also building up a vision of what our community can be. While we've faced many challenges both locally and at the national level, I have never been more optimistic about the future of our community.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the work I am doing as your Commissioner, particularly in the areas of early learning, transportation, and housing and homelessness – the issues I'm particularly focused on.

Also provided is important information on Multnomah County services, since the work we do - from libraries to land use, from social services to animal services, and from jail operations to bridge operations – is expansive and, yes, confusing.

This is also an invitation for you to share your thoughts and concerns with me. What are we doing well, what are we doing wrong, and how can we better work together? You can find information within on contacting my office and joining me to share your thoughts in person.

Sincerely,





# Accomplishments and Priorities

## Housing and Homelessness

We at Multnomah County continue to prioritize funding for the housing and homelessness crisis. We've increased shelter beds to get folks off the streets and we are working to expand the mental health and addiction treatment services people need to remain in stable housing.

Neighbors throughout Portland are stepping up to help. After objections were raised about the planned shelter at SE 61st and Foster, I led an 8-month steering committee process that developed a good neighbor agreement for the shelter that was unanimously accepted by members of the committee. We've also successfully opened the Wy'east Shelter on SE 122nd, where local neighbors hosted a BBQ last year to welcome new residents. Lilac Meadows, a family shelter, opened its doors this spring.

## Transportation

As an east Portland resident, I am acutely aware of the transportation needs of our community. Large swaths of east Portland lack sidewalks, regular transit service, and transportation options. That's why I am excited to serve as co-chair of Metro's 2020 Transportation Funding Task Force, which is crafting the outlines of a potential funding measure that could be referred to voters in 2020. My focus

remains on enhancing transit options, reducing our carbon footprint, and improving safety and reliability.

I also continue to serve as the co-chair of the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project, the goal of which is to ensure we have an emergency lifeline over the river after a major earthquake.

## Sustainability

In 2017 we pledged to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Since then, we've convened a series of forums to conduct deep dives into the details of this transition. We've also started a conversation with the environmental justice community to ensure that the benefits of this new economy are shared by those most impacted by climate change.

## Early Learning

Over the last year I have had the privilege of leading the Multnomah County Preschool for All Task Force. Made up of education advocates, school superintendents, business leaders, and community representatives, the task force has been developing a plan to ensure every child in our community has access to a quality preschool education.

In addition, I am serving on the Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee, which provides grant funding to programs that support children and youth.

# Multnomah County Resources

## 211

Free, confidential information about health, community and social services near you. Calls answered in over 150 languages. 211 is everyone's front door to information on more than 7,000 nonprofit, government and faith-based health and social services programs in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

## Multnomah County Mental Health Call Center

If you or somebody you know is having trouble functioning, Mental Health and Addiction Services is here to listen. Seek help by calling the Mental Health Call Center at 503-988-4888. Mental health professionals are prepared to help anyone experiencing mental health issues at any time, in any language.

Call **503-988-4888**

## Addiction Treatment

Anyone can get addiction services by calling one of our contracted treatment providers. You do not need insurance.

Call **503.988.4888** or visit [multco.us/mhas/treatment](https://multco.us/mhas/treatment) to learn more.

## Senior Services

Concerned about an older loved one? Looking for long-term care? Interested in senior centers? Call the Aging and Disability Resource Connection for 24-hour information and assistance to seniors (older people), people with disabilities, and caregivers. Get needs assessed, identify services and connect with providers.

Call **503.988.3646** or email [adrc@multco.us](mailto:adrc@multco.us)

## Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is available in hundreds of communities throughout Oregon, offering free meals and snacks to all kids ages 1-18. Community summer meal programs are open to all families without paperwork or signing up – kids can just drop in. Many programs also offer fun activities so kids can stay active and keep learning.

Visit [summerfoodoregon.org](https://summerfoodoregon.org) to find a site near you.